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Please amend the paragraph starting on page 2, line 6 as follows:

If the solid ball is manufactured by the compression molding method, the unequality ⁵ inequality of the thickness of the cover is caused with difficulty. In the case in which the solid ball is to be formed by the compression molding method, however, a part of the air present between a solid core and a half shell is apt to remain in a the cover material. The reason is that the solid core has no space which is seen in a wound core. In the compression molding method, the cover material excessively flows out so that the clearance between a cavity surface and the core is insufficiently filled in some cases. This phenomenon is referred to as bare. In the case in which a cover having a small nominal thickness is to be molded, the air residue and the bare are apt to be generated.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 1, line 22 as follows:

It is an object of the present invention to provide a method of manufacturing a golf ball in which a the defect rate is reduced. The method of manufacturing a golf ball according to the present invention comprises the following steps:

- (1) a first step of forming a bowl-shaped half shell from thermoplastic resin composition;
- (2) a second step of putting two half shells and a solid core covered with the half shells in a mold including upper and lower portions, each of which has a hemispherical cavity, in a state in which the mold is opened;
- (3) a third step of clamping the mold;

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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 1, line 19 as follows:

In recent years, a solid ball has been a mainstream in place of the wound ball. The solid ball comprises a solid core having a single layer or a plurality of layers, and a cover. A compression molding method or an injection molding method can be employed for molding the cover. In general, the injection molding method having an excellent mass productivity is employed.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 1, line 25 as follows:

In the injection molding method, first of all, a core is held on the center of a spherical cavity with a holding pin. Next, a molten thermoplastic resin composition is injected into a clearance between a cavity surface and the core. In the final stage of the injection, the holding pin is moved backward. In some cases, therefore, the core is moved from the center with the flow of the resin composition. Due to the movement, the thickness of a cover becomes unequal. In some cases, a cover having an unequal thickness is molded due to the deformation of the core which is caused by an injection pressure. The unequal thickness of the cover causes the physical properties of the golf ball to be nonuniform. In a golf ball having a small nominal thickness of the cover, particularly, the inequality-inequality of the thickness of the cover, seriously affects the physical properties of the golf ball. In-With respect of-to the uniformity of the golf ball, the injection molding method has limitations.